

The Sourdough

S E N T I N E L

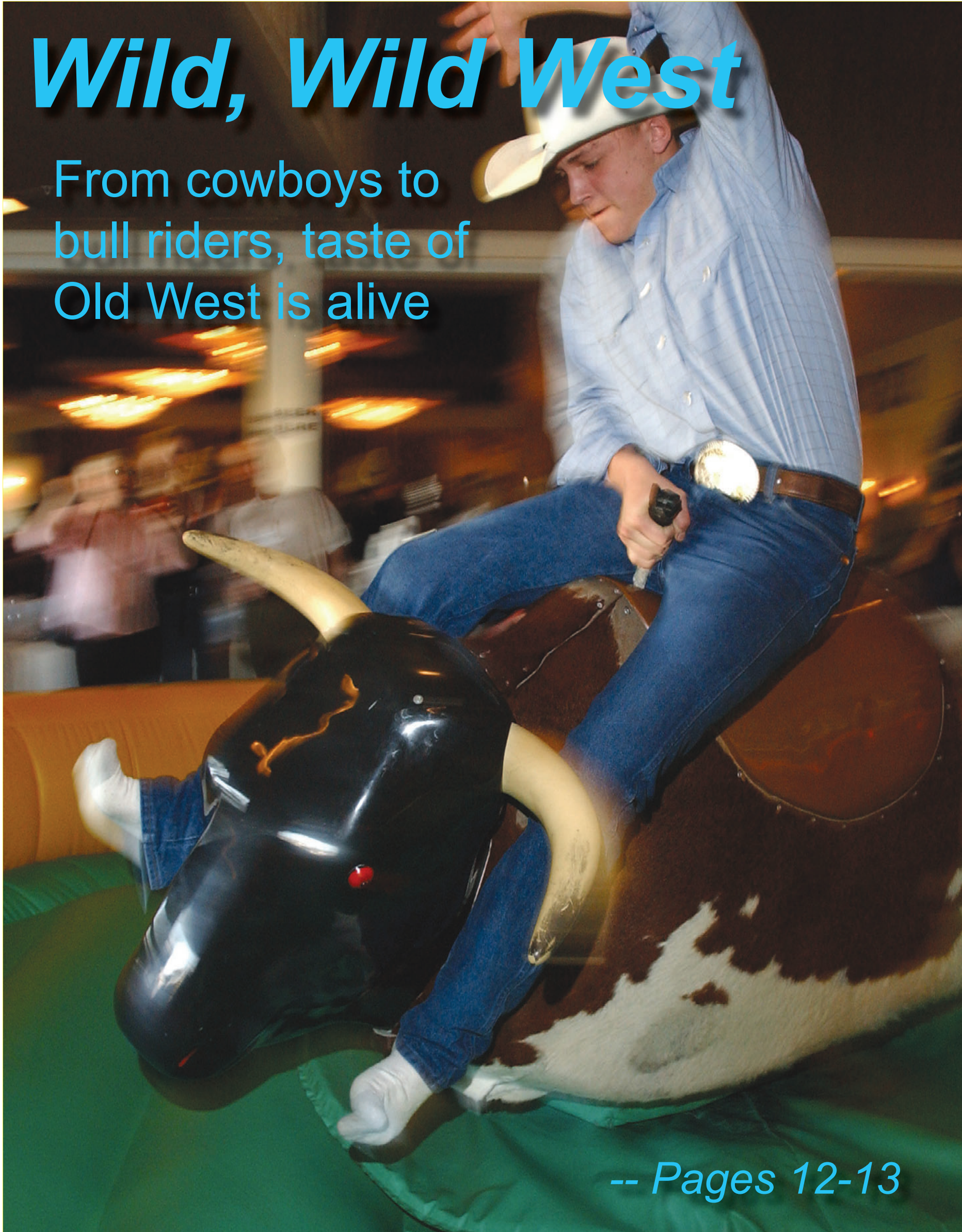
May 6, 2005

Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska

Vol. 56, No. 18

Wild, Wild West

From cowboys to
bull riders, taste of
Old West is alive



-- Pages 12-13

PACAF commander thanks spouses

By **Gen. Paul V. Hester**
Pacific Air Forces Commander

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii – Each year, we set aside a special day to honor our Spouses. A simple act to annually declare that you are important to us...blood and Air Force family together. Our actions, hopefully, tell you this message every day. Today is this year’s Military Spouse Appreciation Day and I ask that you join me in honoring our Pacific Air Forces’ Spouses.

They are essential...no, vital members of the PACAF team, and we are a stronger force for our nation because of their contributions.

Our spouses cover the breadth of involvement in our communities and provide the thread that reminds us that our mission is in defense of our Nation and its families. They are the Chief’s wife of 30 years who attends every military graduation and formal banquet to show her support of our dedicated Airmen; the Lieutenant’s husband who helps pack her bags

and sends her off to combat while he stays home with the kids; the Tech Sergeant’s wife who volunteers 60 hours a week in the Family Support Center caring for other military families; and the literal thousands of others who provide a never-ending source of encouragement and loyalty to our Airmen and their families.

Lynda and I extend our deepest appreciation to all of you for your “Service” along with the most sincere **THANK YOU** from a grateful Air Force.

Spouses day activities

The following base agencies have planned activities for today in support of Spouses Appreciation Day:

■ 3rd Security Forces Open House from 10 a.m.-noon.

■ Polar Bowl: Spouses bowl for half price from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

■ ASYMCA of Alaska: drawing at each of the three ASYMCA locations for a gift basket.

■ AAFES: Main store serves cake and coffee at noon along with other store specials and giveaways.

- Demos and food tasting
- Activities: Silly Bowl (kids), Whopper Hopper, Dollar Bingo (adults), and Coloring Contest
- Food Court specials at Cinnabon, Charley's, and Robin Hood.

■ Family Support Center: All spouses who visit the FSC receive a gift today and tomorrow with cake and punch.



Brig. Gen. Michael Snodgrass
3rd Wing Commander

Do you have a problem you can't seem to get solved? Would you like to recognize someone for a job well done?

The commander's action line is your avenue to communicate your questions, comments and concerns directly to the commander, Brig. Gen. Michael Snodgrass. Your calls will get the commander's personal attention and be answered in a timely manner.

If you have a question, call or e-mail the action line at:

552-2224

actionline@elmendorf.af.mil

The following commanders stand ready to help you and can answer the majority of your questions. If they can't help, then please call the Action Line.

Key phone numbers:

Col. Christopher Thelen, 3rd CES/CC
552-3007

Lt. Col. David Aupperle, 3rd SVS/CC
552-2468

Lt. Col. Robert Garza, 3rd SFS/CC
552-4304

Alcohol-related death shows great importance of wingmen

By **Chief Master Sgt. Robert Tappana**
3rd Wing command chief master sergeant

The tragic, alcohol-related death of a Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., Airman April 26 has showcased how important it is for each of us to take care ourselves and of our wingmen.

Airman 1stClass Eric Waller, a communications systems operator with the 50th Space Communications Squadron, was drinking with friends in a Peterson AFB, Colo., dormitory April 24 when he fell from a second story balcony. He sustained massive head and spinal injuries in the fall and died two days later from those injuries. Airman Waller was 19 years old.

Col. John Hyten, commander of Schriever’s 50th Space Wing, put it perfectly in an interview with the Colorado Springs Gazette, saying “Tragically, a young airman is dead, and that affects everybody. In this case his wingmen didn’t watch out for him, so that’s a tragedy, and the face of that tragedy is a real person.”

“Hopefully people will learn from this inci-

dent and not make those kinds of mistakes in the future,” he added.

This incident has lessons for all Airmen, lessons that must not be taken lightly by anyone.

The loss of Airman Waller is a tragedy that reaches far beyond the gates of Schriever AFB. The loss of any Airman is a loss for the entire Air Force and it diminishes us all. Airman Waller was a friend to some, a co-worker of others and a fellow warrior to us all.

How unfortunate that he did not realize his importance and obligations to our team. Drinking irresponsibly and illegally in spite of all the best efforts of his leadership was the first step toward tragedy.

How unfortunate that his wingmen did not realize his importance to the team or their obligations to him and to our Air Force.

Any of them could have acted to stop him before he committed the crime of drinking underage. Any of them could have kept him from the balcony.

At Elmendorf, we have been very fortunate in that we have not lost an Arctic Warrior teammate to alcohol-related misconduct in recent years.

When you consider our unacceptable DUI statistics and the fact that underage drinking is a

serious problem here the only conclusion you can reach is that it is only a matter of time.

We must either change our trends or suffer the needless loss of one or more of our teammates in the same manner.

Irresponsible or illegal alcohol use is a direct threat to the combat readiness of this wing and our Air Force. It steals our teammates through death, injury and criminal penalties. It threatens the safety of our communities and our families, and it forces leadership to focus on individual situations often in competition with a focus on the mission at large.

We each have an obligation to keep ourselves safe and ensure we are ready to prosecute our portion of the mission.

Each of us has the additional responsibility to be proactive in protecting the safety of our wingmen, and that includes protecting them from themselves if necessary. We must take these responsibilities seriously.

We would not tolerate any one outside our Air Force taking any action which threatens our combat readiness. We must be just as aggressive in eliminating the threats to readiness from the inside. Each of us must:

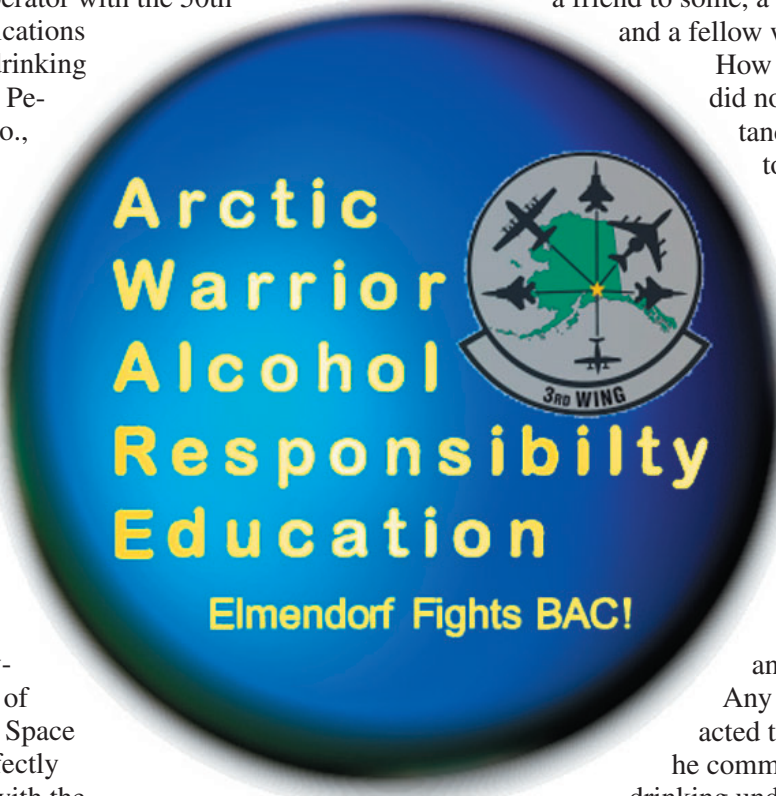
■ Plan to ensure our alcohol use is both legal and safe

■ Ensure we follow the plan

■ Intervene when our teammates endanger themselves and our mission

Let’s turn this tide before we lose a member of our Arctic Warrior team. Let’s commit to using this space in the future to run an article on our success instead of the obituary for one of our friends and fellow warriors.

We can’t fail in any battle where we all fight together. Get committed as “Elmendorf Fights BAC!”



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Best in DoD 2000
Best in Air Force
1999, 2000 & 2001
Best in PACAF
1998, 1999, 2000 & 2001

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3rd Wing Moment in History

April 29, 1994:



The Alaskan North American Aerospace Defense region terminated the full time air defense alert mission at King Salmon and the forward operating base was placed in a standby caretaker status shortly afterwards.

Alaska, DoD join forces to create radio system

By Tech. Sgt. Richard Tankersley
3rd Communications Squadron

Those Arctic Warriors who use a Land Mobile Radio in their job, may understand the frustration that is shared across the base when using LMRs.

The current system is old and has more than 2,000 LMRs in use, and doesn't have the capacity for that many radios.

The current system has been in continuous service since 1990.

The radio system has served Elmendorf well, but it is time to march into the 21st Century. The replacement is part of the Alaska Land Mobile Radio System which represents the epitome of LMR technology.

The ALMR project is extremely broad. Funding for design, procurement and implementation is a joint effort between the Department of Defense and various departments of the State of Alaska.

The new system on Elmendorf will operate much the same way as the current system does now, however each radio's capabilities and the ability to expand the system



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS DE-JUAN HALEY

Mr. Jeff Allen, an electrician with ALCAN Electric, finishes some connection work on base in preparation for the installation of the new communications system being implemented on Elmendorf and throughout Alaska.

is greatly increased.

Elmendorf will be inter-connected to more than 50 repeater sites throughout the state. These sites will saturate the Anchorage area with coverage and users should theoretically never get a busy signal again.

By the end of the fiscal year all users on the ALMR system will also be able to take their new

radios on the road, without a break in coverage, from Seward to Fairbanks. Eventually there will be continuous road coverage to Homer, Valdez and Tok.

Even though the new radios may look complicated, they operate like any other LMR that most people have used in the past. When the transmit button is pushed and a user speaks into the microphone,

they will be heard by everyone on that channel.

The goal is to provide a smooth transition during this switchover. Topcover will be updated periodically as we reach certain milestones.

For more information about the ALMR project, visit their web site at www.ak-prepared.com/almr or call 552-3077.



TECH. SGT. RICHARD TANKERSLEY

An example of the new equipment.



STAFF SGT. PRENTICE COLTER

Kick-off luncheon

Brigadier General James Hirai, Commander of U.S Army Alaska, speaks to audience members gathered for the Asian Pacific American Heritage kick-off luncheon at the Susitna Club Tuesday.

Other activities planned in celebration of APAH month include:

- A free Hawaiian luau and food tasting event May 25 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Chapel 1 annex. For more information, contact Senior Master Sgt. Harry Seballos at 552-2932.
- Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-noon at the Base Library, there will be story hour and Take-It-and-Make-It workshops with themes from the Asian and Pacific cultures. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Susan Lasiter at 552-3449.
- Fridays at the Dining Facilities will have Asian/Pacific Islander-themed lunches.



Airman 1st Class Todd Michaud, 3rd Equipment Maintenance Squadron, displayed superior maintenance practices by single-handedly completing 47 structural maintenance flight line repairs.

His diligence and strict adherence to technical data enabled a flawless deployment to COPE SANDS, zero defects noted by Quality Assurance, and earned laudatory comments from his supervision.

His actions were instrumental and unprecedented by eliminating 20 man hours of work from a heavily tasked fabrication flight.

Airman 1st Class Grady Miller, 3rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, spearheaded construction of eight intricate shipping crates for a 60,000 pound high frequency ground command post satellite system. By meticulously following all special packaging instructions

to their detailed specifications, he ensured no damage to the \$5-million highly sensitive MILSTAR equipment during transport.

Staff Sgt. Michael Timm, 3rd Security Forces Squadron, demonstrated superb leadership while assigned as the Unit Deployment Manager, by managing more than \$2 million of mobility resources necessary to equip our forces to combat enemy aggression. In addition, he collected and documented the necessary readiness data and forms ensuring the highest readiness posture possible.

The 3rd Operations Support Squadron, Intel Flight provided world-class support for one of their own experiencing significant mental health issues.

Two flight members found him unresponsive, performed Self Aid and Buddy Care procedures and called 911 after he went into convulsions.

The flight then set up a 24/7 vigil to monitor and show support for a comrade who had attempted suicide. Their actions exemplify Air Force Core Values and the Wingman concept.

This weeks commander's shadow is **Staff Sgt. Jacob Ryun**, 3rd Communications Squadron.



PHOTOS BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS GARRETT HOTHAN

Moose Crossing open house

The Aurora Military Housing Office is conducting a tour of the new Moose Crossing housing units Tuesday through Thursday. The tour is for the people who live in Phoenix, Denver, Houston, unrenovated New Sunflower, Boulder, Douglas, and Boston housing. Transportation will be provided, with a bus leaving the Susitna Club parking lot at noon, 3 p.m., and 7 p.m. It will return to the club for drop-off at the end of the tour. For more information, call 753-1023/1024.



New promotion study guides on their way

By 1st Lt. Denise Burnham
Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

The latest edition of enlisted promotion study guides will hit the streets by the end of May, Air Education and Training Command officials at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas said.

Both the Promotion Fitness Examination and the U.S. Air Force Supervisory Examination, officially known as Volumes 1 and 2 of Air Force Pamphlet 36-2241, are used by senior airmen through senior master sergeants to study for promotion.

“The PFEs are shipped overseas first and then throughout the United States with final distribution on the East Coast since the distribution center is located there,” said Master Sgt. Gary Billington, the Air Force manager for the PFE study guide at the Air Force Occupational Measurement Squadron, which writes the PFE. “This helps ensure everyone has the book in hand at approximately the same time.”

The goal, Sergeant Billington said, is to have study materials in the hands of promotion-eligible Airmen by July 1. The material will be distributed with the following priority:

- Senior master sergeants testing in cycle 05E9.
- Master sergeants testing in cycle 06E8.
- Staff and technical sergeants testing in cycle 06E6 and 06E7.
- Senior airmen testing in cycle 06E5.
- All remaining enlisted Airmen.

The electronic version of both guides will be available online by July 1 at www.e-publishing.af.mil/.

Unit Weighted Airmen Promotion System

monitors will distribute the study guides to assigned Airmen, whether at home station or deployed. It is the WAPS monitor’s responsibility to send the guides to Airmen deployed, Sergeant Billington said.

A significant change is that Volume 2 now includes Volume 1. In the past, master and senior master sergeants received both study guides. Senior airmen, staff sergeants and technical sergeants will continue to receive Volume 1 only.

Both guides contain a compact disk located on the back cover that includes an electronic version and a five-minute video about how promotion tests are developed.

Updated information about counseling, communication and Air Force organizations is included in the PFE. Sergeant Billington said they placed more emphasis on enlisted contributions in Air Force history and added new information about military benefits, the virtual military personnel flight and nutrition.

Changes to the supervisory guide include new information about contingency warfare planning and critical thinking, and chapters on staff-level communication and civilian personnel management.

“We are already developing the 2007 PFE,” said Chief Master Sgt. Michael O’Neill, the AFOMS professional development flight chief.

“Beginning 29 months before the new PFEs



hit the streets, (Airmen) are asked to participate in an online survey,” Sergeant Billington said. “The survey results are then used to revise the study guides and ultimately write promotion tests based on feedback from the field.

“Many people don’t know that these surveys are a way for Airmen in the field to make their input on future promotion tests,” he said.



PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. RYAN MATTOX

Tech. Sgt. Stanley Joslin, Jr.

Duty title: 3rd Logistics Readiness Squadron noncommissioned officer in charge of dispatch support
Hometown: Oklahoma City
Hobbies: Martial arts, weightlifting, traveling, and spending time with my wife and child
How he contributes to the mission: Coordinates all “combat trucker” missions throughout the 3rd Wing and 11th Air Force. The flight of 63 vehicle operators moves personnel and cargo on Elmendorf and throughout Alaska conducting 24 hour operations.
Time at Elmendorf: Three years
Best part of being in Alaska: Experiencing the great outdoors, a different atmosphere, base and people.
Supervisor’s comments: “Tech. Sgt. Joslin is a leader by example and an outstanding NCO. He never complains and always gets the mission done right the first time while also taking care of 40-plus troops.” Master Sgt. James Lucas



Tech. Sgt. Christopher Johnston

Duty title: 3rd Component Squadron F-15 avionics craftsman production supervisor
Hometown: Colorado Springs, Colo.
Hobbies: Guitar, computers and woodworking
How he contributes to the mission: Directs avionics maintenance and training of 13 technicians. Leads maintenance and calibration of \$65 million in test equipment and sustained an astonishing 95 percent equipment mission capability rate over the past year, far exceeding the standard of 85 percent. He recently updated all flight self-inspection checklists and led a team of six people to conduct a full inspection of four work centers in preparation for a staff assistance visit
Time at Elmendorf: Four years
Best part of being in Alaska: Best part is getting out and enjoying all the diverse scenery that Alaska offers year round
Supervisor’s comments: “Tech. Sgt. Johnston has a remarkable work ethic and the best dedication to the mission that I have seen, and is therefore a great example to all.” Master Sgt. Gregory Flores

AWARE briefing

The 3rd Wing will have mandatory Arctic Warrior Alcohol Responsibility Education briefings at the Base Theater for all military members 27 years old and younger. All other military members are highly encouraged to attend one of these briefings. The briefings are today at 8:30 a.m., 3 and 4:30 p.m.

Bowling tournament

There will be a 9-pin, No-tap Tournament today from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Polar Bowl. This is open to all five-person teams for \$50 per team. Mulligans will available for purchase and a trophy will be awarded to the winning team. Sign-in will start at 10:30 a.m. and is limited to first 30 teams. For more information, call Master Sgt. Robert Daly at 551-2926 or robert.daly@elmendorf.af.mil.

Free movie night

The ASYMCA is sponsoring a free movie night May 15 at 7 p.m. for the showing of *Guess Who*, PG-13, at the Base Theater. Active duty and their dependents can stop by the ASYMCA Office at Building 7179 to pick up their tickets. For more information, call 552-9622.

Home buying seminar

The Housing Office is offering a Home Purchasing Seminar May 16 at 1 p.m. The class lasts 2 to 3 hours. Seating is limited, and early reservations are recommended.

For more information, call 552-4439/4328.

Yard supplies

The Aurora U-Fix-It Store will be providing Alaska blend lawn seed, fertilizer, and lime to all occupants in Aurora Housing to help revitalize their yards. Treated landscaping timbers are also available to those who wish to border flower beds around their houses. Quantities and specific dates of availability can be provided from the U-Fix-It Store or by calling 743-9070 for more information.

Suicide prevention

All military and civilian members are required to attend one of the following suicide prevention briefings at the Base Theater to satisfy their annual training requirement: May 18 at 3 p.m., June 6 at 3 p.m., June 8 at 7:30 a.m. and June 14 at 3 p.m. Call 580-1399 for more information.

Weapons registration

All military members residing in base housing, temporary lodging, and dormitories must register their privately owned weapons. Unit commanders will ensure weapons registration is accomplished during initial in-processing. Housing residents may store their weapons in quarters but must ensure the use of gun cabinets, mechanical locks or other safety devices to render it inoperable. Weapons are not authorized in

the dormitories or temporary lodging units. These weapons must be stored in the 3rd Security Forces armory immediately upon arrival. For more information, contact 3rd SFS at 552-6576.

Loaner furniture

The Furnishing Management Section located in the Housing Office at 6346 Arctic Warrior Drive has 90-day furniture loaner kits and long-term loaner appliances. Those interested can stop by the Housing Flight Office Monday-Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with their address and a copy of their orders. The Furnishing Management Office will set up a delivery to their home. When people are finished with the furniture, they can stop by again to set up a pick-up date. For more information on the available items in the 90-day loaner kits, call Mr. Jim Thatch at 552-2599/4439 or stop by housing for a complete listing.

Vacation Bible School

This year's Vacation Bible School will be June 13-17, from 9 a.m. to noon at Chapel 1. This special time is designed for children ages 6 to 6th grade. Registration is limited and currently underway at Chapel 1 and 2 and the Chapel Center. Volunteers are needed for this great community service project. Contact Peggy Brown at 646-4279 to volunteer or for more information.



Chapel Schedule

Catholic Parish

- **Monday through Wednesday and Friday Mass:** 11:30 a.m. at the Chapel Center
- **Thursday Mass:** 11:30 a.m. at the Hospital Chapel
- **Sunday Mass:** 10:30 a.m. at Chapel 1
- **Sunday Evening Mass:** 5 p.m. at Chapel 2
- **Confession:** 6 p.m. Sundays at Chapel 2

Protestant Sunday

- **Liturgical Service:** 9 a.m. at Chapel 2
- **Celebration Service:** 9 a.m. at Chapel 1
- **Gospel Service:** noon at Chapel 1
- **Fellowship Praise:** 6 p.m. at Chapel 1

Religious Education

- **Catholic Religious Education:** Sunday at 9 a.m. at the Chapel Center.
 - **Protestant Sunday School:** 10:30 a.m. at the Chapel Center.
- For more information, call the Chapel at 552-4422.

New system to streamline civilian jobs

By Ms. Angie Horn
3rd Mission Support Squadron

Congress granted the Department of Defense authority to establish a new civilian personnel system in November 2003. The resulting National Security Personnel System will be implemented in event-driven phases. The first part, related to labor relations, is expected to be implemented DoD-wide sometime this summer following the “meet and confer” phase that is currently in process.

The NSPS is designed to enable the total force concept. Under NSPS, DoD civilians and military counterparts will work on equal footing to accomplish the department’s mission.

Ultimately under the new system, employee performance goals will be tied directly to mission objectives.

With this, it becomes important for employees to understand mission requirements and critical for management to evaluate

individual contributions as related to mission accomplishment.

The draft enabling regulations were posted in the Federal Register in February. Employees and managers were given thirty days to provide comments on the proposed features of the system.

Some of the progressive personnel system changes proposed in the draft included: simplified pay banding structure, allowing flexibility in assigning work; pay increases based on performance, rather than longevity; a streamlined, more responsive hiring process; and, streamlined methods for addressing disciplinary and performance problems.

National labor leadership and DoD management officials are currently in the process of “meeting and conferring” to reach agreement on the content of final implementing regulations.

Once agreement is reached the final implementing regulations can be issued. While many NSPS features can be implemented after

final regulations are issued, the specific personnel system changes related to employee pay for performance will not be implemented for Elmendorf civilian employees until a later date.

According to the current implementation schedule, the General Schedule employees will transition to NSPS for pay in July 2006; the Wage Grade employees are not scheduled to transition until July 2007.

The latest information on NSPS is available though Air Force and DoD Web sites. For Topcover users, access to the Air Force NSPS Web site has been added under Main, Web Self Service.

Once you’ve accessed the NSPS site you can easily link into the DoD Web site. Individuals may sign up for editions of the U.S. Air Force NSPS News by sending a blank e-mail to join-afdppn@mercury.af.news.af.mil and put “join-afdppn” in the subject line.

Did you know...

1863 Chinese American William Ah Hang — one of the first Asian Americans to enlist in the U.S. Navy during Civil War

1942 Filipino Army Sgt. Jose Calugas — earns a Medal of Honor for heroism in the Philippines during World War II, among the first Filipinos to do so for services in World War II

1984 Maj. Gen. John Liu Fugh — first Chinese American to attain general officer status

1998 Japanese American Gen. Eric K. Shinseki — assumes duties as the 28th vice chief of staff and is the highest ranking Asian in the U.S. armed forces.

Information provided by the State of Washington Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs Web site at www.capaa.wa.gov.



Identity theft threatens personal security, finances

By Senior Airman Austin May
3rd Wing Public Affairs

In today’s technologically advanced world, a person can do just about anything from the comfort of their own home, from managing their finances to shopping for groceries. The consumer market caters to convenience, striving to make all types of purchases as simple and quick as possible.

While not having to handle important transactions in person can make a busy Airman’s life somewhat easier, it also makes it easier for identity thieves to prey on unsuspecting victims.

Identity theft is the term used to describe any instance in which someone uses another person’s identity to access bank accounts, make credit card purchases, and even take out loans. This form of fraud can be not only monetarily devastating, but can affect credit ratings for several years.

Fortunately, there are proven ways to protect yourself from identity theft. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation has several simple recommendations.

First, learn to be judicious when divulging your personal confidential information. This would include things like your social security number and your mother’s maiden name. Most businesses will never mandate that you give your SSN. This key piece of information could be used by an identity thief to access your bank account.

Another preventative measure against identity theft is protecting the

information you carry on your person, your mail, and even your trash. The FDIC suggests that you never carry your SSN, and only have with you the absolute necessary number of checks and credit cards, as well as any other bank information.

Remove mail from your mailbox promptly, and make sure someone trustworthy can pick it up for you in the event of a deployment or vacation. Some identity thieves will dig through dumpsters and trash cans to find discarded credit card applications, bank statements, and cancelled checks. These items should be torn up or shredded before being thrown away.

During the last Polar Force exercise, the Exercise Evaluation Team found a number instances of SSNs in the trash when they were going through discarded items, as well as checks and even a credit card. Remember, a shredder can be your best friend in the fight against identity theft.

Something that can help thwart identity thieves is closely monitoring your bills and bank statements. If a statement or bill does not arrive on time, immediately contact the company. This could be an indicator that an identity thief may have stolen your mail, or changed your address.

Also, review your credit report annually. In many cases, a victim is not even aware that someone is using their identity until they apply for a loan or credit card, and at that time it may be far too late to catch the thief.

If you become a victim of identity

theft, there are a few immediate actions you need to take to protect yourself, the first of which is to contact your creditors and financial institutions. They will guide you through the processes of clearing your name and stopping any further misuse of your identity.

Next, alert local law enforcement agencies, to include police, Better Business Bureau, and your local Federal Bureau of Investigation or U.S. Secret Service branch, as identity theft is a federal crime. There is a high probability that you are not the only victim of the identity thief, and your case may help police in catching the criminal.

If any checks or credit cards have been stolen, have them cancelled immediately, and have stop-payment orders placed on any outstanding checks. You should also consider closing all financial accounts that may have been compromised.

Fortunately, in the event of an identity theft, substantial protections exist for victims. If you report a lost or stolen credit card before any transactions are made, you cannot be held responsible for any unauthorized charges. If charges are made before you can report the card missing, the most you can be held responsible for is \$50 per card.

However, with Automatic Teller Machine or debit cards, the

amount you can be held responsible for varies with the length of time it takes to report the card missing. If the card is reported missing before any charges are made, you will only be held liable for \$50 in unauthorized charges. After two business days, but up to 60 days after an unauthorized withdrawal shown on a bank statement, you can be responsible for up to \$500. If the card is reported stolen after 60 days from the first unauthorized withdrawal, you will be responsible for all money taken from your account.

Identity theft is on the rise, and the only way to keep yourself from becoming a victim is to remain vigilant and protect your personal information. Be cautious when making purchases online and over the phone, and keep a close eye on your finances. By doing this, you can not only keep yourself out of financial burden, but help put a stop to identity theft as a whole.



TECH. SGT. SHARON BALTAZAR

Arctic Life

Great living in the great land

Mt. Spurr launches egg dropping contest

By Staff Sgt. Ryan Mattox
3rd Wing Public Affairs

Students from Mt. Spurr Elementary School gathered to watch their principal drop eggs from the roof of the school April 29.

The students, with the help of their families, created a variety of contraptions for their eggs to see if they could land safely without breaking. Of the 19 participants, 16 of them were successful in their design. The egg drop was a homework project.

The children were tasked to design a device that would help a raw egg survive the fall from the roof of the school. The rules were anything goes and no restrictions placed on designs.

“It was just something fun to do, to bring the family together for our study on eggs,” said Mrs. Amy

Bragg, first grade teacher at Mt. Spurr Elementary.

“I was happy with the contraptions that the students made. I had 19 out of 20 students participate. Not to mention the number of parents who took time out of their schedules to watch the egg drop.”

The students came up with a variety of designs. Some eggs were wrapped in diapers and some had balloons attached to them, while others were put inside boxes. One student even put his egg inside a jar of peanut butter.

One student whose egg wasn’t so lucky had his egg wrapped up in a fish box.

“My dad helped me. I’m not going to let him help next time,” said first grader William McDonald.

This was the fifth year students at the school have been doing egg drops in the classroom.



PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. SUE NUCKOLLS

Above: Mt. Spurr Elementary School Principal Mr. Jim Bell, drops an egg off of the roof of the school during the egg drop competition at the school April 29. Nineteen children competed to see who could build a device which would safely land an egg when dropped from the roof.

Left: Mt. Spurr first grade teacher, Ms. Amy Bragg, shows her class that the egg was unharmed during the drop. Kids came up with several ideas for designs from balloons to parachutes to help their eggs survive. This year had the highest egg survival rate she has seen for the class.



Lt. Col. Mark Bibler, commander

Unit Spotlight

703rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

MISSION:

The 703rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron generates mission-ready E-3, C-130 and C-12 aircraft, supporting airborne surveillance, command and control, and airlift missions locally and throughout Pacific Air Forces. The squadron performs direct flightline support to include inspecting, repairing, servicing, launching and recovering, and configuring of all assigned aircraft. The squadron supports the North American Aerospace Defense Command’s commitment to the defense of the Alaskan region as well as Joint Chiefs of Staff taskings.



Susitna offers taste of Wild, Wild West

Hundreds gather to enjoy fun-filled evening with food, music, contests, entertainment

By Tech. Sgt. Theo McNamara
3rd Wing Public Affairs

The Elmendorf Club system's latest effort to bring fun to its customers offered almost as much variety in activities as there were guests in attendance for the Wild, Wild West Roundup at the Susitna Club, Friday.

"For the third time this year, we've brought in a record crowd of people. What's really exciting to us is that many people in the crowd weren't regulars — we're obviously reaching out to a new audience and bringing them together for fun," said Mr. Al Spurlin, 3rd Services Squadron.

There were a wide variety of activities, all with an Old West theme.

"It's difficult for me to say what event received the most attention but watching people get thrown from the mechanical bull was definitely fun for me and the hundreds of people watching," said Mr. Sprulin. But a person being tossed through the air wasn't the only unusual sight at Friday's event.

A watermelon-seed spitting contest for instance brought Col. Jim Sturch, 3rd Wing vice commander, to his knees, searching through the piles of sawdust that covered the ballroom's dance floor.

The winner, Staff Sgt. Dusty Fouch, 3rd Communications Squadron, whose spit-covered seed traveled more than 20 feet after leaving his lips was named Elmendorf's greatest spitter and given a \$50 cash prize. Also earning a cash prize was Elmendorf's best corn-on-the-cob eater, Tech. Sgt. Javier

Ortega, 3rd Communications Squadron.

The big cash prizes came later in the evening, however. "We gave three people \$500," said club manager and event organizer, Mrs. Shyrel Mason. "Five people got \$100 cash door prizes and there were a lot of other give-a-ways."

The people who didn't win a prize didn't leave the party without getting something.

Parents with kids received free day care, hundreds of people got horse and carriage rides, and the Alaska 49rs Cowboy Action Shooters presented several Wild-West Shoot Out Days demonstrations through out the night.

And the crowd was entertained by a DJ "Goat" and the Long Gone Daddies band, a band made up of members of the 3rd Equipment Maintenance Squadron and the Club's own DJ "T-Bone."

"The question that seemed to be on everyone's mind as the party drew to a close was, what's next?" said Mr. Spurlin. "That's a secret we're not ready to reveal yet; however, I will tell you it doesn't include indoor horseshoe pits or calf roping."



PHOTOS BY TECH. SGT. KEITH BROWN



Top left: Mr. Jonnie Fitts, a member of Long Gone Daddies, strums a few country tunes for the crowd during his band's performance at the Wild, Wild West Roundup at the Susitna Club, Friday.

Far left: Mr. R.J. Gryder, a member of Alaska 49rs Cowboy Action Shooters, fires his shotgun during a mock shootout which was staged in the parking lot of the Susitna Club as a live action performance.

Above: Mrs. Sharlotte Hightower, spouse of Staff Sgt. Josh Hightower, 3rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, plays Texas Hold 'Em in an effort to win tickets for a prize drawing held toward the end of the night.

On the cover: Ray Smith, 16, takes a ride on the mechanical bull.



May abounds in fitness activities

Fitness Center offers wide variety of activities to keep all exercising

By Mrs. Mary Rall
3rd Services Marketing

Staying in shape is an ongoing process and a commitment only you can make. That's why the Fitness Center wants to add a little incentive to your workout by featuring free May Fitness Month activities to provide you with an opportunity to keep in shape and take home prizes to go with your good health.

Animal lovers can bring their "best friend" along at the Pet Fun Run Saturday at noon behind the Fitness Center. This event will include a 5K run or a 1.5-mile walk. Even those without pets are encouraged to participate. Prizes will be available for both pets and humans.

Also, be sure to take a dip in the pool in a 200 Freestyle Mixed Relay event May 13 at 1 p.m. at the Fitness Center. Participants can form a team and

compete to see who is the fastest. Prizes will be awarded for all competitors.

Those interested in hitting the road can beat feet over to the Armed Forces 5K Fun Run May 20 at noon at the Fitness Center. Prizes will be available for all participants.

There will even be a chance for individuals to show their strength at a Bench-Your-Own-Body-Weight Contest May 20 at the Fitness Center. Sign up begins at noon and the competition commences at 12:30 p.m. Prizes will be offered to those who can bench their weight the greatest number of repetitions.

Further, squadrons can show who is the best according to Air Force standards by proving to be the most fit to fight at a PT Challenge

May 26. Squadrons can send their best and most fit competitors for both the men's and women's events.

The PT Challenge event will include Fitness Test events to include push-ups and sit-ups and a 1.5-mile run for the best time. Participants must use proper form for push-ups and sit-ups, however, there will be no time limit. Prizes and bragging rights as the fittest people on the base will be given for the top three competitors in both male and female categories.

Lastly, those with a need for speed can take on the Tour de Elmendorf bike event May 27 and 28. May 27 will feature a 9.2-mile time trial, and May 28 will be the 17.4-mile distance race. Prizes will be awarded to all participants.

Be sure to stop by the Fitness Center to sign up for these healthy alternatives and put some fun and fitness back into your life. For more information, call 552-5353.



...:inside the fence

Super Friday, Today at 5:30 p.m. The Cave and The Kashim Lounge. 753-3131
Cinco de Mayo Preteen Dance, Today from 6-8 p.m. at the Youth Center. 552-2266
Give Parents a Break, Today from 7-11 p.m. at the Denali CDC. 552-8304
Mother's Day Game Night, Saturday at the Young Adult Center. 753-2371
All Night Xtreme, Saturday from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Polar Bowl. 552-4108
Mother's Day Special, Moms save 10 percent Sunday at Eagle Glen. 552-3821
Mother's Day Event, Sunday featuring homemade flowers at 4 p.m. at the Youth Center. 552-2266
Road Bike Training, Sunday at 5:30 p.m. for \$10 at Outdoor Recreation. 552-2023
FCC Training and Orientation, Tuesday-May 13 at Family Child Care. 552-3995
Beginning Embroidery Stitches, Tuesday from 6:30-

8:30 p.m. for \$15 at the Skills Development Center. 552-7012
Preschool Story Hour, Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. at the Library. 552-3787
Take It and Make It Crafts, Tuesday at the Library. 552-3787
Introduction to Picture Framing, Wednesday from 5:30-9:30 p.m. for \$40 at the Skills Development Center. 552-7012
Flower Gardening in Alaska, Wednesday from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Arctic Oasis Community Center. 552-8529
Morning Coffee Conversation, Thursday from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Arctic Oasis Community Center. 552-8529
Family Night Buffet, Thursday at the Susitna Club. 753-3131
Homeschool Pottery Continued, Thursday at 2 p.m. for \$15 at the Skills Development Center. 552-7012

Mountain Bike Training, Thursday at 5:30 p.m. for \$10 at Outdoor Recreation. 552-2023
Ceramic Dry Brushing Rooster, Thursday and May 19 at 6:30 p.m. for \$45 at the Skills Development Center. 552-7012
Belly Dancing Class, May 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Arctic Oasis Community Center. 552-8529
One Stroke Painting Carnations, May 13 from 5:15-6:35 p.m. for \$35 at the Skills Development Center. 552-7012
Freestyle Mixed Relay Swimming Event, May 13 at 1 p.m. at the Fitness Center. 552-5353
PACAF Teen Lock-in, May 13 at the Youth Center with the Young Adult Center. 753-2371
Bike Maintenance Class, May 13 at 1 p.m. for \$5 at Outdoor Recreation. 552-2023
* Sign up for art classes at least three days in advance.

BELLY DANCING: Learn one of the oldest forms of dance by joining us for Belly Dancing classes at 6:30 p.m. at the Arctic Oasis Community Center. These classes are open to ladies and young women ages 12 and older for \$40 per person. 552-8529.

MOVIE: Robots (PG) Rodney Copperbottom is an idealistic robot who wants to convince his electronic brethren to come together and work toward making the world a better place. As the story unfolds, he falls for a female executive robot, faces opposition from an evil corporation headed by Big Weld and finds some unlikely allies in the form of a ragtag group of misfit robots called the Rusties. 7 p.m.

...:sat

PET RUN: Bring your "best friend" along at the Fitness Center's Pet Fun Run at noon behind the Fitness Center. This event will include a 5K run or a 1.5-mile walk for people to enjoy even if they don't have a pet. 552-5353.

MOVIE: Robots (PG) See above for movie description. 7 p.m.

...:sun

GOLF ON: Check out what's new with Ping at a Ping Demo Day with free club fittings and trials from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Eagle Glen Golf Course. 552-3821

MOVIE: Hostage (R) Jeff Talley, a former LAPD hostage negotiator, has moved away from his career outside of Los Angeles, and away from his wife and daughter. When a convenience store robbery goes wrong in his turf, the three perpetrators move in on an unsuspecting family. But the family's father has a secret which might compromise his kin. 7 p.m.

...:fyi

POLAR BOWL CLOSES: The Polar Bowl will be closed Sunday through June 9 for new pin spotter installation. The center will reopen June 10 at 3 p.m. with a Grand Opening Celebration featuring free food, door prizes, and free bowling and shoe rentals throughout the day. 552-4108

Asian Pacific Islander Month

By 1st Lt. Tony Wickman
Alaskan Command Public Affairs

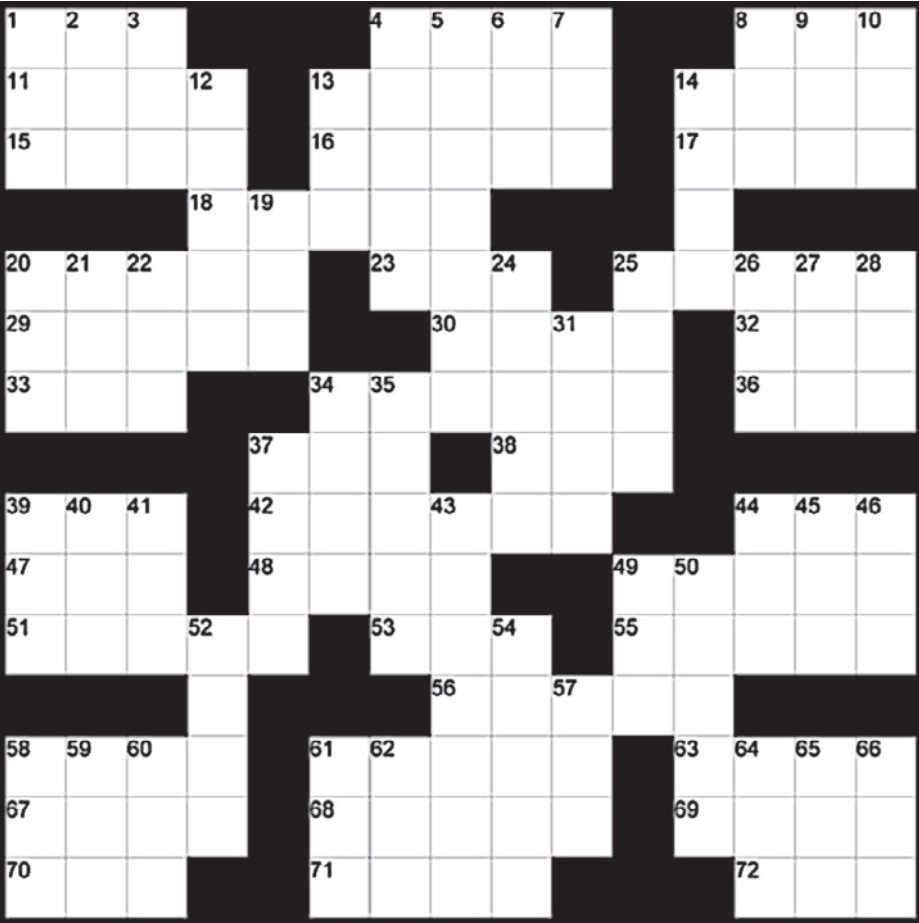
ACROSS

- 1. American comedian Costello
- 4. USAF lawyers
- 8. Hole
- 11. Mistakes
- 13. Carpenter’s tool
- 14. Singer Jones
- 15. Pulitzer Prize writer Ferber
- 16. Pulizer Prize poet Edna ____ Vin-cent Millay
- 17. Equipment
- 18. Brigades
- 20. Stadium
- 23. Long time
- 25. An inert gas
- 29. Eddie Murphy movie ____ *Daycare*
- 30. Head covering
- 32. Field movie *Norma* ____
- 33. USAF commissioning source
- 34. Restoring drinks
- 36. ____! A mouse!
- 37. Rowing need
- 38. ____-jay, MTV employee
- 39. Play part
- 42. First Asian-American Olym-pic diving gold medalist Victoria

- Manalo ____
- 44. Person in the Mekong Delta
 - 47. 17th letter of Greek alphabet
 - 48. 9th letter of Greek alphabet
 - 49. Correct
 - 51. A sign
 - 53. Entrance to a cordon, in brief
 - 55. Brown color
 - 56. Foreigner
 - 58. Chinese American magnetic core memory inventor (1944) An ____
 - 61. Plant with star-shaped flowers
 - 63. Japanese-American Gold medal speed skater Apolo Anton ____
 - 67. Land measurement
 - 68. Regions
 - 69. ____ in; curb
 - 70. Ocean part
 - 71. Assists
 - 72. Federal environment org.

DOWN

- 1. Taiwanese-American Yuan T.____; ‘86 Chemistry Nobel Prize winner
- 2. California fort for training, once
- 3. Vase
- 4. Past performance record
- 5. First Korean to become American citizen (1888) Phillip ____
- 6. ____ Arbor
- 7. Place
- 8. Writer Edgar Allan ____
- 9. A Gershwin
- 10. Road material
- 12. First Asian-American elected to Congress (1956); Dalip Singh ____
- 13. 23rd letter of Greek alphabet
- 14. First Asian-American to win Acad-emy Award (1986) Haing ____
- 19. Negative vote
- 20. Commotion
- 21. Traitor
- 22. O’Neal and Harris
- 24. Immature
- 25. Rear end



- 26. Grad school test
- 27. Grown-up acorn
- 28. Indicates maiden name
- 31. Puts frosting on cake
- 34. Poi starter
- 35. Speak
- 37. Norse god
- 39. Op or fine
- 40. First Asian-American to star in own TV show (1994) Margaret ____
- 41. Alaska town
- 43. Left
- 44. Hawaiian gift
- 45. *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* Oscar-nominated director __ Lee

- 46. Lyrical poem
- 49. Honest ____; Lincoln nickname
- 50. First Filipino to serve in a U.S. legislature 1962 Benjamin____
- 52. Rim
- 54. “Guilty” and “Not Guilty” in court
- 57. Federal tax org.
- 58. Existed
- 59. Pilot with 5+ kills
- 60. Gun org.
- 61. Auto club, in short
- 62. ____ Lanka
- 64. TV class ____-*Haw*
- 65. Swig
- 66. Cat ____ Hot Tin Roof



Last week’s solution

SPORTSPAGE



STAFF SGT. PRENTICE COLTER

Arctic Warriors race for charity

Elmendorf participants in the Anchorage Heart Run joined in the local fight against heart disease and stroke by racing downtown in a 5k run/walk April 30. The annual Heart Run, a charity run that's hosted by the American Heart Association, attracts approximately 7,000 people each year and is the kickoff to the Anchorage running season.



STAFF SGT. SUE NUCKOLLS

Fitness Activities Month

The Fitness Center is hosting several activities at the center throughout May as part of its Fitness Activities Month. Call 552-3504 for more information on any of the following programs:

Pet Fun Run — Saturday at noon

Freestyle Mixed Relay Swimming — May 13
at 1 p.m.

Armed Forces 5K Run — May 20 at noon

Bench Your Own Weight — May 20
at noon

PT Challenge — May 26 at noon

Tour De Elmendorf Cycling — May 27 and 28 at 9 a.m.

Left: Col. Robert Douglas, 3rd Mission Support Group commander, takes a swing at the Eagle Glen Golf Course during opening day of the driving range April 27. The golf course opens for the season today on temporary greens. Beginning today, the Pro Shop has new hours from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and the Eagle's Nest is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Eagle Glen's hours of operation are slated to increase further as summer progresses. For more information, call the Eagle Glen at 552-3821.